Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Tuesday 16 Feb 2021 until 23:59 on Wednesday 17 Feb 2021

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 16 Feb 2021 at 03:05

Confidence: High confidence for an unsettled week of periods of rain and strong winds, mostly from the south or southwest giving milder conditions aiding the continued thaw of snow from lower levels. Lower confidence for timings and amounts of rainfall.

Headline for Tuesday 16 Feb 2021: Quite cloudy at times and some showers possible in the afternoon, strong winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Tuesday 16 Feb 2021

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy Snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
Medium Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Low Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
FOG	FOG			FOG	FOG
Fog	Fog	Cloudy	Heavy rain showers	Fog	Fog
Precipitation probability					
20%	20%	20%	60%	40%	40%

Forecast for Tuesday 16 Feb 2021

Weather: A band of rain in the early hours, clearing by dawn, but this combined with some snowmelt may give some local flooding. It will remain quite dull and cloudy for a time before some brighter spells later in the morning. In the afternoon there is a risk of some heavy showers around the Lake District but some places may miss these altogether.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 30%. Lots of low cloud associated shrouding the tops at times but a few breaks developing especially in the afternoon.

Visibility: Low cloud will be broken around 400m and above at first, during the morning some breaks will develop and the base will lift to around 700m however there will be patches of lower cloud for much of the day. Visibility will deteriorate to moderate or poor in showers and cloud will thicken and lower in showers again. More chance of clearance around the more northerly fells in the afternoon.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Tuesday 16 Feb 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	47/56 SW	41/49 SW	35/44 SW	28/36 SW	24/29 SW	24/29 SW	28/35 S
600	39/50 SW	35/46 SW	31/42 SW	25/34 SW	18/24 SW	17/23 SW	23/32 S
300	12/37 S	13/33 SW	13/32 SW	11/26 SW	7/20 SW	7/19 SW	10/25 S
Valley	11/34 S	11/30 SW	13/30 SW	10/23 SW	6/16 SW	6/17 SW	10/23 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	3/-5	3/-5	3/-5	2/-5	2/-5	2/-5	1/-6
600	5/-2	4/-3	4/-2	4/-2	3/-2	3/-2	3/-3
300	6/3	6/2	6/2	6/3	5/2	4/2	4/1
Valley	7/4	7/4	8/5	7/5	6/4	6/4	6/3
Freezing Level*	1300m	1200m	1100m	1100m	1000m	1000m	1100m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Freezing level falling during the day but any remaining snow thawing along with the overnight rain. Still feeling cool in the gales in the morning, these easing later in the day.

Forecast for Wednesday 17 Feb 2021

Weather: A period of rain overnight will clear to leave a brighter day with showers, some of these will turn wintry at high ground as freezing level falls. Some sunny intervals between showers are expected.

Maximum wind: Southerly 20-25mph with gusts 35-45mph.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 40% in the morning, increasing to 70% as rain clears but may reduce as showers move through and cloud covers the fell tops at times.

Visibility: Cloud bases likely to be around 500m in the morning as rain clears but cloud will lift and break leaving good or excellent visibility out with showers. In any showers visibility is likely to become moderate or poor for a time and cloud is likely to lower over the tops to 600m again.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 5 rising to 9 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 1 Celsius
Freezing level: 800-1000m

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement
Date: Monday 15 February 2021. Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:25 Full report:
There is a thaw at all levels; although the summit temperature around midday was only a degree above freezing, the thaw was being accelerated by driving rain. However, owing to last week's prolonged sub-zero temperatures, the hard patches of ice are proving more resistant to the thaw. These can still be found on paths almost to valley level especially on flatter sections, where they are crossed by drainage lines and, especially above 700m, on popular routes where snow has been compacted. Depending upon aspect, the snowline is between 600m and 700m; however between 700m and 800m large areas of fellside are now free from snow – especially on S and W facing slopes. The snowpack was mainly soft and wet with patches of hard snow and ice. As the snow depth is often over 10cm, this made for heavy going when trudging through it. With deep snow obscuring/obliterating landmarks, conditions above the snowline can change quickly and dramatically when showers blow through, particularly if these are in the form of snow. Excellent navigational skills are essential as is a safe back-up escape plan to ensure that you do not get caught out in a whiteout somewhere where you do not want to be. Cornices exist above, predominantly but not exclusively, N and E facing slopes. Upland tarns have frozen, and some were covered by snow; with milder conditions these will be unsafe to venture onto. For those venturing above the snowline, despite the snowpack being mainly wet, an ice axe and crampons remain essential; this is owing to the amount of hard snow and ice that still exists and the fact that it would only take a marginal drop in temperature for the snow to harden. This is the case regardless of route. E.g. on the so-called 'easy' path up Helvellyn from Swirls there remains a steep section of unavoidable hard snow near Browncove Crags where a slip without the means to stop yourself would have serious consequences. Anyone attempting, or traversing, steep and exposed routes above the snowline, such as Striding or Swirral Edge, must be experienced in winter mountaineering including the ability to competently assess the stability, or otherwise, of the snowpack as it weakens during the thaw. Ice on rocks and boulders, which has been solid, is now loose in places so care needs to be taken even when wearing crampons. Goggles are highly recommended in case fresh snow or spindrift is encountered and they also help to increase contrast when looking for steep edges. Temperature: plus 1.3 C, Maximum wind speed 30.4 mph, Wind chill: minus 7.2 C, Average wind speed: 25.1 mph
Issued at: 03:05 on Tue 16 Feb 2021

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